

BUSH'S LEGACY: **FISCAL MELTDOWN, WEAK ECONOMY**

*After Seven Years of Deficits and Debt,
Bush, Republicans Continue Same Damaging Policies*

*"We can proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens.
Projections for the surplus in my budget are cautious and conservative."
- President George W. Bush, 3/27/01*

*"[O]ur budget will run a deficit that will be small and short-term."
- President George W. Bush, 1/7/03*

On Monday, President Bush had one final opportunity to break from the deficits and debt that have contributed to the poor economy Americans are faced with today. Instead, his budget proposal is merely a continuation of failed policies. It creates even larger deficits and debt, immorally forcing our children and grandchildren to pay our bills and serving as a drag on our economy. Despite this fact, the President's proposal also does little to reinvigorate the economy, and even cuts funding for the programs Americans need during an economic downturn.

A LEGACY OF DEFICITS AND DEBT

President Bush's budgets have left behind a legacy of debt, turning surpluses into deficits:

- When Bush took office there was a **projected \$710 billion surplus for FY09** [Congressional Budget Office]. Bush's budget would create a **\$407 billion deficit for FY09 – a swing of \$1.117 TRILLION.**
- When Bush took office, the **national debt was \$5.7 trillion.** Under Bush's budget it will be **\$10.3 trillion at the end of FY09.**
- When Bush took office, there was a **\$5.6 trillion ten-year projected surplus.** It is **now a \$3.4 trillion deficit** over the same period
- Bush presided over the 5 largest deficits in American history:
 - #1: \$412 billion deficit in FY04
 - #2: \$410 billion deficit in FY08 (projected)
 - #3: \$407 billion deficit in FY09 (projected)
 - #4: \$378 billion deficit in FY03
 - #5: \$318 billion deficit in FY05

SEVEN YEARS LATER:
BUSH'S RECKLESS BUDGET POLICIES HAVE
CONTRIBUTED TO A WEAK ECONOMY

“If government debt and deficits were actually to grow at the pace envisioned by the CBO's scenario, the effects on the U.S. economy would be severe. High rates of government borrowing would... slow the growth of real incomes and living standards over time.... Uncertainty about the ultimate resolution of the fiscal imbalances would reduce the confidence of consumers, businesses, and investors in the U.S. economy.”
- Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, 2/28/07

	WHEN BUSH TOOK OFFICE	TODAY – IN THE RED
UNEMPLOYMENT	5.7 million unemployed	7.7 million unemployed
HOUSEHOLD INCOME	\$49,163	\$48,023
HEALTH INSURANCE	38 million uninsured	47 million uninsured
POVERTY	31.6 million	36.5 million
JOBS CREATED	22.7 million over Clinton's 8 years	6 million over 7 years
REAL GDP GROWTH	3.6% over Clinton's 8 years	2.6% over 7 years
NATIONAL DEBT	\$5.7 Trillion	\$10.3 Trillion (projected)

BUSH, REPUBLICANS OFFER MORE OF THE SAME

President Bush, Republicans, and Republican Presidential candidates offer no hope for a break from the past, advocating to make the fiscally irresponsible 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent.

The American People Want Change...

- “More than eight in 10 Americans describe the economy as ‘not so good’ or ‘poor,’ and nearly six in 10 believe the United States is already in a recession.” *[Washington Post/ABC News Poll, 2/4/08]*
- “In all, 42% of those surveyed from Wednesday to Saturday rate the nation's economic conditions as poor, the most negative outlook since 1992.” *[USA Today/Gallup Poll, 2/4/08]*

...While Republicans offer more of the same:

- “In order for this economy to grow, it's important to make the tax relief permanent.” *[President Bush, 2/4/08]*
- “We need to make the Bush tax cuts permanent.” *[Sen. John McCain, CNN Debate, 1/30/08, even though he voted against these tax cuts in 2001 and 2003.]*
- “Mr. Romney... has repeatedly called for making [Bush's tax cuts] permanent.” *[New York Times, 1/25/08]*
- “Now, as we face an economic downturn, let's hope that we've learned from history and will work in a bipartisan way to make this tax relief permanent.” *[Minority Leader Boehner, The Hill, 1/16/08]*